

## REMARKS

Claims 6-25 had been canceled. Claims 1-5 and 26-30 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1, 4, 26 and 29 have been amended.

### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for not complying with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

All occurrences of the phrase "front-end interfaces" in Claim 1 and 26 have been amended to "front-end processes" to be consistent with the terms, such as front-end processes **212a-212d**, being used in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Amended Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 26) now recites a step of "sending said encrypted password from said password registry to said corresponding front-end process for decryption in order to permit said access request." Support for the claimed passing step can be found on page 9, line 24 - page 10, line 2, which states "password registry 210 may then pass the encrypted password back to the front-end process 212b for decryption."

Because all written description requirements have been met, the § 112 rejection is believed to be overcome.

### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by *Kao et al.* (US 2002/0122553) in view of *Wu* (US 5,774,551) or *Itoi and Honeyman (Pluggable Authentication Modules for Windows NT, Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> USENIX Windows NT Symposium, Seattle, Washington, Aug. 3-4, 1998)*. Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Amended Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 26) now recites a step of "allowing each of a plurality of software tools to register its password in said password registry via a respective one of a plurality of front-end processes within said workstation, wherein each said password is encrypted by said respective front-end process before being stored in said password registry," a step of "in a determination that said encrypted password associated within said software tool is stored in said password registry, sending said encrypted password from said password registry to said corresponding front-end process for decryption in order to permit said access request," and a step of "in a determination that said encrypted password associated within said software tool is not stored in said password registry, notifying said front-end process to prompt for a password from a user."

The claimed allowing step, sending step and notifying step are not taught or suggested by *Kao*, *Wu* or *Itoi*. Because the claimed invention recites novel features that are not found in the cited references, whether considered separately or combined, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

### CONCLUSION

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 are currently pending in the present application. Applicant believes that independent Claims 1 and 26 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,



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